

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2839



Introduced by Hon. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski, Jr.

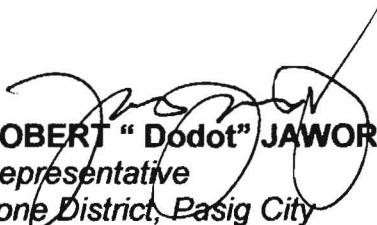
EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has always been said that "No man is an island", and the same holds true for nations. When people interact with each other, there is almost always a trade of ideas, beliefs, goods or the like. As globalization continues to encourage linkages around the globe, there is now a growing appreciation of the role that multi-lingual individuals play in an increasingly diverse society.

In a rapidly shrinking world, foreign language literacy is a tool in gaining access to people and resources. Moreover, there is now a greater understanding of the academic and cognitive benefits that are gained from learning a second language. Down South for instance, our Muslim brothers are teaching themselves the basics of Arabic in order to communicate with the Islam world better. Our Constitution also provides that Spanish and Arabic should be promoted on a voluntary and optional basis.

This bill seeks to promote language literacy among our students by mandating educational institutions to include in their curricula elective language courses.

For the reasons above-cited, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROBERT "Dodot" JAWORSKI, JR.
Representative
Lone District, Pasig City

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AN ACT
TO PROMOTE THE STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. **Title.-** This Act may be cited as the " Foreign Languages Act of 2004."

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.-** it is hereby declared the policy of the State to encourage Filipinos to learn and acquire proficiency in as many languages as possible, while developing a strong Filipino language. Towards this end, the school curriculum shall be so designed as to allow students to learn as many foreign languages as possible, beginning with Spanish and Arabic, which the Constitution recognizes as languages deserving to be promoted in the school and administrative systems on a voluntary and optional basis.

SEC. 3. **Teaching of Foreign Languages.-** Spanish and Arabic, along with other foreign languages preferably Asian languages, shall be offered as elective language courses in all levels of instruction in public and private schools, beginning with the primary level of school.

SEC. 4. **Rules and Regulations.-** The Department of Education and Culture shall formulate and implement the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

SEC. 5. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, acts, regulations, circulars and rules or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. **Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,